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EXAMINER

PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/688,854

Applicant(s)

ROWE ET AL.

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-14 and 17-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-14 and 17-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's submission on 4/12/06 presenting arguments against the current rejection. All pending claims have been rejected where the previous rejection has been maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,971,271 (Wynn et al.), herein referred to as Wynn and U. S. Patent No. 6,905,409 B1 (Bradshaw).

Referring to claim 1, Wynn discloses a method of configuring a graphical user interface associated with an application executed by a computing device of a gaming system (column 2, lines 10-35). Wynn discloses that the gaming system includes at least one gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot winnings. Wynn discloses accepting a first input from a given user of the gaming system, provided by the player (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses accepting a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 2, lines 40-45), with the operator providing input

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based on customer service requirements. Wynn discloses providing a user identification associated with the given user, determining a user profile from the user identification, determining the information that the user is permitted to view in accordance with the user profile and displaying only the information the user is allowed to view, wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input and second input (column 2, lines 35-45). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. Wynn discloses displaying information to the user including game elements but does not explicitly teach providing a set of navigation selectable elements. Bradshaw discloses a gaming system providing a set of navigation selectable elements (column 6, lines 40-55). These navigation elements allow the user of this system to further access gaming system information. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to disclose teaching providing a set of navigation selectable elements. Both Bradshaw and Wynn disclose a gaming system that involves allow the users to access data that is displayed with the data being related to the gaming system. Bradshaw has clearly further taught distinct elements that can be also displayed in Wynn's gaming system. Bradshaw has provided specifics of what elements are displayed where based on the user interaction and services provided by Wynn's system, it would have been obvious to provide a set of navigation selectable elements for displaying for carrying out the user interaction referred to in Wynn. Hence,

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it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to provide a set of navigation selectable elements.

Referring to claims 2 and 5, Wynn and Bradshaw disclose that the navigation selectable elements include container elements (Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-45), with the elements representing buttons.

Referring to claim 3, Wynn and Bradshaw disclose that the navigation selectable elements comprise application initiating elements (Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-60), with the elements accessing applications that carry out functionalities.

Referring to claim 4, Wynn and Bradshaw do not disclose that the navigation selectable elements are arranged in a hierarchical format. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose arranging the elements in a hierarchical format. The hierarchical format for displaying information that is related to each other or have an association is well known where data that have a general association as is the case with the gaming system selectable elements can be more efficiently categorized and arranged in an hierarchical format to quickly access the necessary data. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to arrange the navigation selectable elements in a hierarchical format.

Referring to claim 6, Wynn and Bradshaw do not disclose displaying the navigation selectable elements in a tree form. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose displaying the elements in a tree form. The tree form for displaying information that is related to each other or have an association is well known where data that have a general association as is the case with

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the gaming system selectable elements can be more efficiently categorized and arranged in tree form to quickly access the necessary data. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to display navigation selectable elements in a tree form.

Referring to claim 7, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses displaying the displayed navigation selectable elements in a form dependent upon the user profile (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-45), where Wynn has provided data that is based on user profile with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Bradshaw.

Referring to claim 8, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the user profile is associated with a device, which displays the graphical user interface (Bradshaw, column 4, lines 45-50), with the card information providing user profile information as a result of inserting the card into the device, thereby creating an association.

Referring to claim 10, Wynn discloses a method of configuring a graphical user interface associated with an application executed by a computing device of a gaming system (column 2, lines 10-35). Wynn discloses that the gaming system includes at least one gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot winnings. Wynn discloses accepting a first input from a given user of the gaming system, provided by the player (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses accepting a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 9, lines 20-30), with the operator being an

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employer of the user, providing input based on customer service requirements. Wynn discloses providing a user identification associated with the given user and determining a user profile from the user identification (column 2, lines 37-45). Wynn discloses determining an access point for the user based on the profile, the access point determining a portion of the information which are accessible to the user and a portion of the information which are not accessible to the user based on order thereof and displaying only information which are accessible to the user, wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input and second input (column 2, lines 35-45). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. The access point of Wynn is the point at which user has provided identification information further allowing the user to view that is based on user identification that is provided. Wynn discloses displaying information to the user including game elements but does not explicitly teach providing a set of navigation selectable elements having a predetermine order.

Bradshaw discloses a gaming system providing a set of navigation selectable elements having a predetermined order (column 6, lines 40-55). These navigation elements allow the user of this system to further access gaming system information. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to disclose teaching providing a set of navigation selectable elements. Both Bradshaw and Wynn disclose a gaming system that involves allow the users to access

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data that is displayed with the data being related to the gaming system. Bradshaw has clearly further taught distinct elements that can be also displayed in Wynn's gaming system. Bradshaw has provided specifics of what elements are displayed where based on the user interaction and services provided by Wynn's system, it would have been obvious to provide a set of navigation selectable elements for displaying for carrying out the user interaction referred to in Wynn. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to provide a set of navigation selectable elements having a predetermined order.

Referring to claim 11, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the navigation selectable elements are arranged into one or more levels, and the access point comprises one of the levels (Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-55), with the Figure displaying a level of selectable elements.

Referring to claim 12, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the navigation selectable elements associated with one or more levels higher than the level with which the access point is associated are not accessible to the user (Wynn, column 9, lines 20-25), where the supervisory level is associated with the access levels but is not accessible for other users and is a higher level in comparison to the other users, where the supervisor level allows for more access controls in comparison to the player and operator access levels.

Referring to claim 13, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses determining a configuration for the navigation selectable elements based upon the user profile and displaying the navigation selectable elements in accordance with the configuration (Wynn, column 2,

lines 37-40 and Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-45), where Wynn has provided data that is based on user profile with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Bradshaw.

Referring to claim 14, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses determining if the user is restricted from viewing one or more of the navigation selectable elements based upon the user profile and preventing the display of those elements (Wynn, column 11, lines 42-46), with the users without club cards not being allowing to view elements based upon their identity of not being card holders.

Referring to claim 17, Wynn discloses a gaming system, with a computing device adapted to accept a first input from a given user of the gaming system (column 2, lines 10-35). Guinn discloses a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses at least one gaming device associated with the computing device, the gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot winnings. Wynn discloses at least one first user station and at least one second user station associated with the system for displaying information and for providing input to the computing device (column 2, lines 10-35), the stations including the player and concierge stations. Wynn discloses that the graphical user interface is adapted to display the information in a plurality of configurations dependent upon a configuration of a station on which the graphical user interface is displayed or a user profile and wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input

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and second input (column 5, lines 1-30). column 2, lines 35-45). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. The plurality of configurations is dependent on user data or profile data provided at a distinct work station, with the information displayed varying based on the user profile at a distinct workstation, thereby creating a plurality of configurations used for determining what is to be displayed. Wynn does disclose displaying gaming data but does not disclose the details of the element and layout of what is displayed. Bradshaw discloses a graphical user interface for displaying the information, with a main window having a navigation viewport displaying one or more navigation selectable elements, one or more of the one or more navigation selectable elements comprising an application initiating element, and a data viewport arranged to display information associated with an application initiated by selection of one of the one or more application initiating elements (column 7, lines 15-25), where Bradshaw teaches selectable elements that are related to a gaming system displayed, representing application functionalities that when initiated further displays information associated with the specific application functionality that is chosen, the example provided teaching further information that is prompted as a result of choosing "open session".

Referring to claim 18, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that a user station comprises a station having a touch-sensitive display and wherein the graphical user

interface adapted to display one or more of the navigation selectable elements as user-selectable buttons (Bradshaw, column 5, lines 25-32 and column 6, lines 35-40).

Referring to claim 19, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the second user station includes mouse and keyboard input devices (Bradshaw, column 6, lines 35-40) but does not disclose that the graphical user interface is adapted to display the navigation selectable elements in a tree form. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose displaying the elements in a tree form. The tree form for displaying information that is related to each other or have an association is well known where data that have a general association as is the case with the gaming system selectable elements can be more efficiently categorized and arranged in tree form to quickly access the necessary data. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to display navigation selectable elements in a tree form.

Referring to claim 20, Wynn and Bradshaw disclose that the graphical user interface is associated with a gaming system accounting system (Bradshaw, column 3, lines 37-42).

Referring to claim 21, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the accounting system comprises a soft count system arranged to sort currency, vouchers, tickets, or any combination thereof that have been accepted by one or more gaming devices within the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 3, lines 34-37), with the cited example teaching the accounting system being used for sorting currency.

Referring to claim 22, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses verifying the authenticity of accepted vouchers or tickets and reconcile the accepted vouchers or tickets against those that have been recorded as having been received and paid by one or more gaming devices within the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 6, lines 44-50).

Referring to claim 23, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the accounting system is adapted for use by casino financial personnel and cashiers, wherein at least one user profile for one cashier does not permit the display of soft count information to the cashier on the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 7, lines 15-25).

Referring to claim 24, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses accounting system comprises an audit system adapted to poll a host of the gaming system to confirm proper operation of the system (column 2, lines 52-57).

Referring to claim 25, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the location of one or more elements of the graphical user interface is device specific (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-45), where Wynn has provided display data that is based on user interaction with a specific device with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Bradshaw.

Referring to claim 26, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the location of one or more elements of the graphical user interface is user specific (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-45), where Wynn has provided display data that is based on user profile with the data representing navigation selectable elements that is obvious over Bradshaw.

Referring to claim 27, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses changing the layout based on user data but does not disclose that the location of the one or more elements of the graphical user interface depends on whether a particular user is left or right handed. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose that the location of the elements depends on whether a particular user is left or right handed. Wynn and Bradshaw are clearly concerned with the layout of the displayed information, wherein providing means for changing layout configuration based on user data and user preferences (column 11, lines 50-60 and column 2, lines 40-45). The user profile containing user related information would also contain user related data such as whether a particular user is left or right handed where this data is used for further customizing the display to the desire of the user. Hence, it would have been obvious to provide this further customization to meet the needs of the users, which is the objective of Wynn and Bradshaw.

Referring to claim 28, Wynn and Bradshaw disclose that one or more of the one or more navigation selectable elements comprise a level navigation button (Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-60), with the buttons referring to a distinct level where data is accessed.

Referring to claim 29, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that the level navigation button is not made available to all users of the gaming system (Wynn, column 2, lines 37-40 and Bradshaw, column 6, lines 40-45), where Wynn has provided display data that is based on user profile, with data being made available to certain users, with the

data representing navigation selectable elements that represents level navigation buttons that is obvious over Bradshaw.

Referring to claim 30, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that at least some users of the gaming system are not permitted to change the configuration of the graphical user interface (Wynn, column 11, lines 43-48) with non club card holders not being able to access a graphical user interface for configuration with concierge aid.

Referring to claim 31, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses that user profile comprises a common user profile shared by a plurality of users of the gaming system (Wynn, column 2, lines 38-45), with Wynn teaching a common user profile of club card holders shared by a plurality of users.

Referring to claim 32, Wynn discloses a method of configuring a graphical user interface associated with a gaming system (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses that the gaming system includes at least one gaming device adapted to accept a wager by a player, present a game, and grant an award for predetermined winning events (column 5, lines 10-20), with casino type gaming system including wagers through coin input and jackpot winnings. Guinn discloses accepting a first input from a given user of the gaming system, provided by the player (column 7, lines 30-35). Wynn discloses accepting a second input from an operator of the gaming system (column 9, lines 20-30), with the operator being an employer of the user, providing input based on customer service requirements. Wynn discloses providing a user identification associated with the given user, determining a first user profile from the user identification (column 2, lines 42-45), where upon providing user identification information profile data associated

with that user is accessed and displayed to the user. Wynn discloses that the first user profile being determined from a set of user profiles, wherein at least one of the user profiles comprises a common user profile shared by a plurality of users of the gaming system, with the user profile being one of many user profiles with these profiles representing as the stored data of information that is associated with the user and further common profile being the card holder profile that is applicable to a plurality of users (column 4, lines 50-55). Wynn discloses determining the information that the user is permitted to view in accordance with the user profile and displaying only the information the user is allowed to view, wherein the resulting display is customized to the user based at least in part upon the first input and second input (column 2, lines 35-45). All data that is displayed to the user is based on the user identification information that has been input in addition to help data that has been provided by the operator based on the user identification information allowing for a customized display that is viewable only by an identified user. Wynn discloses displaying information to the user including game elements but does not explicitly teach providing a set of navigation selectable elements. Bradshaw discloses a gaming system providing a set of navigation selectable elements (column 6, lines 40-55). These navigation elements allow the user of this system to further access gaming system information. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to disclose teaching providing a set of navigation selectable elements. Both Bradshaw and Wynn disclose a gaming system that involves allow the users to access data that is displayed with the data being related to the gaming system. Bradshaw has

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clearly further taught distinct elements that can be also displayed in Wynn's gaming system. Bradshaw has provided specifics of what elements are displayed where based on the user interaction and services provided by Wynn's system, it would have been obvious to provide a set of navigation selectable elements for displaying for carrying out the user interaction referred to in Wynn. Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Bradshaw to provide a set of navigation selectable elements.

Referring to claim 33, Wynn and Bradshaw discloses a soft count system arranged to sort, reconcile and verify the authenticity of currency, vouchers, tickets, or any combination thereof that have been accepted by one or more gaming devices within the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 3, lines 34-37), with the cited example teaching the accounting system being used for sorting currency, and wherein the accounting system is adapted for use by casino financial personnel and cashiers, wherein at least one user profile for one cashier does not permit the display of soft count information to the cashier on the gaming system (Bradshaw, column 7, lines 15-25).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 4/12/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The combination of Wynn and Bradshaw teach providing a set of navigation selectable elements that the user is permitted to view in accordance with the user profile. Wynn discloses an interactive system including a display for the user to view the appropriate data, it would further have been beneficial to provide Wynn's display

with more navigation elements that would allow for the user of Wynn's system to be more involved in the interaction. The combination of Wynn and Bradshaw teach that data that is accessed based on user identification in Wynn can become more efficient by learning from Bradshaw to provide more navigation elements for the user to take on a more interactive role. The operator of the gaming system interacts with the gaming system and the user to ensure that the user that has logged has appropriate access to the information they desire. The operator inputs information according to what is currently needed for the user. The user identification provided by the user, includes a card, which is input to the gaming system for identification of a profile related to the user, the profile indicating information such as card club bonus level that is associated with a particular user. The information that is accessible to the user is based on input of the card and identification of a user profile based on this input where the resulting display is customized to the user based on the user's input of the card identification and the operator's input according to the user and the desires of the user. A display that is provided in Wynn and Bradshaw both represent graphical user interfaces that is configured based on user's input of the identification card and further based on interaction by the operator.

Wynn discloses a further embodiment involving interaction between a supervisor and operator where the user will be the supervisor and the operator will then become the employee of the user (column 9, lines 20-30). Wynn also discloses the elements that is accessible to a user based on identification of the user, where the information that is displayed to the user is based on first identifying the user by the card input and

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displaying customized data such as card bonus level information based on the profile of the user that is associated with the card that is input. Wynn discloses data that is displayed to a user of the system, including game interaction and accessing of service information with the concierge gaining further access to systems for reserving the desired services of the user, where the user has access to game related information and access to services provided by the casino but does not have access to displays that configure the service data. Figure 20 displays a user interface that is for the concierge. The supervisor has the capacity to interact with the gaming system thereby providing the second inputs (column 9, lines 20-30).

Wynn and Bradshaw disclose displaying a main window navigation viewport and a data viewport, where Bradshaw displays two viewports with a main navigation area that displays a set of navigation elements (reference number 21, Figure 3A) and a data viewport displaying further functions that are accessible to the user (reference number 20, Figure 3A).

The items displayed in Wynn and further with the combination of Wynn and Bradshaw the navigation elements that are displayed would be based on an identification of the user and therefore the display that is provided to the user is dependent on the configuration of a user profile that is determined once the user has input an identification card into a gaming system. The elements noted include various features that are obvious and well known in the field of gaming systems in a casino environment. Furthermore the combination of Wynn and Bradshaw clearly teach how a customized display with navigation elements are displayed based on input by the user

identifying themselves and input by the operator for interaction with the user to provide service data. The data that is displayed to the user is based on first identifying the user from the user input card where the data that is displayed to the user is restricted based on this identification. The bonus card level information for that particular user is displayed not the bonus card level information for other users, which teaches restriction of access to information to the current user of the gaming system.

It is well known that within gaming system, an identification process occurs where any data that is displayed to the user subsequent to identifying the user and only after identifying the user is customized data that is displayed for that user. Navigation elements in the display of a gaming system are necessary for the user to interact with the display to carry out functionalities. Bradshaw was used to teach the display of explicit functions that are clearly displayed to the user, but obviously in order for the user to interact with a gaming system including a display as is taught in Wynn it is necessary for there to displayed elements that the user can access.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063.


All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
June 26, 2006



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173